FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

2 MAY 1985

Lebanon

The Lebanese Army began implementing "practical steps" to consolidate peace and security 2 May, Beirut radio announced. These include deployment in West Beirut and along the southern coastal road. However, clashes continued in Beirut despite a cease-fire agreement, according to Voice of Lebanon radio. Meanwhile, Beirut radio reported renewed exchanges of fire in Kfar Falus. In another development, the IDF spokesman said that IDF soldiers killed four "terrorists" in southern Lebanon near Al-Nabatiyah, Jerusalem radio revealed. The radio added that the attempt was made by Shi'ite Amal members wearing Lebanese Army uniforms.

Sudan

The appointment of former Chief of Police 'Abbas Badani as minister of interior came as a "terrible blow" to the police force, according to a 22 April Police Association Executive Committee statement carried by the Clandestine Sudanese People's Liberation Army radio. Noting the association's "total disappointment," the statement described the new minister as "corrupt" and asked that he be purged.

Expressing his opinion on bringing former President Ja'far Numayri to trial, Prime Minister al-Jazuli Daf'allah told Cairo *ROSE AL-YUSUF that Numayri should face the same judge* who sentenced Republican Brotherhood leader Muhammad Taha to death during the Numayri regime. This would be the "natural course of the bloody scenario" Numayri chose for ruling Sudan, Daf'allah added. As for improved Libyan relations, Sudanese Socialist Popular Front leader 'Abdallah Zakariya told SUNA that the front hopes to further strengthen Sudan's relations with Libya, adding that its activities in Sudan are guided by principles in the Libyan leader's *GREEN BOOK*. Meanwhile, Libyan Arab Airlines resumed flights to Sudan 2 May.

Iran-Iraq

Following Iraq's 1 May announcement on the maritime target attack, the Turkish Foreign Ministry stated that a Turkish tanker was hit by Iraqi fighters south of Khark Island outside Iraq's exclusion zone, Ankara radio reported. In a separate development, MENA cites Cairo press reports that the Soviet Union, prior to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's visit there, has demanded that Syria curtail its assistance to Iran, including advanced weapons.

Iran

In a May Day speech reported by IRNA, President 'Ali Khamene'i praised Iranians for coping with attempts by "internal and external enemies" to create disturbances at factories so as to cripple the economy.

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L'HUMANITE Interviews Karmal on Nation's Progress

PM011423 Paris L'HUMANITE in French 25 Apr 85 p 8

[Interview with Afghan President Babrak Karmal by Serge Leyrac in Afghanistan — date not given]

[Text] [Leyrac] After the April 1978 Revolution the DRA went through an initial stage that involved fundamental changes and tragic events. After 1980 your country entered what is called a "New Stage." How do you describe it?

[Karmal] The victory of the April national democratic revolution is the legitimate result of the working people's long struggle and the reflection of their highest aspirations. From the start the antifeudal and anti-imperialist April Revolution encountered bitter and growing hostility from imperialism, regional reaction, the big feudal lords, and their deposed accomplices from former regimes and their mercenaries.

The revolution's internal and external enemies turned Pakistan into a springboard for aggression and subversion against the revolution and its achievements. They encouraged and prompted Hafizollah Amin and his clique to indulge in anti-unitary activities and betray the party and state, our revolution, and our people from within.

It must be said that in addition to the intentions of the revolution's internal and external enemies, and imperialism's espionage activities inside the party and state through the criminal Amin, the shortcomings, mistakes, and inabilities of the revolutionary and state leadership during the initial stage undermined the revolution's social and mass foundation. Not only was it in danger of undermining the people's confidence in the party and revolution, but our country's independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity were in great danger. It was at that crucial point that the PDPA's healthy forces revived and consolidated the party's unity and saved the country from the criminal plot hatched by reaction and imperialism. By making it possible to enter the "New Stage" they put the revolution back on course.

The revolutionary transition to the "New Stage" made it possible to consolidate the party's unity and increase its prestige among the working masses. This created the objective conditions for the masses' practical participation in the revolutionary process. The revolutionary changes regained their popular character.

[Leyrac] What were the most striking measures adopted during this "New Stage"?

[Karmal] A system of broad overall organization united in the National Fatherland Front [NFF] was set up for the first time. Its role as a social and mass foundation for the working people's political sovereignty is increasing every day. The rules for the local bodies of the state government and administration of the DRA, enabling the citizens' broad and direct participation in their local problems through the NFF, have been adopted and will soon come into force. Many forms of aid are being established through the development of national languages and cultures, the increase in the people's standard of living, the improvement of the working masses' living conditions, public health, and health services for the people. This stage has made possible and guaranteed real equality and the multilateral development of nationalities, tribes and ethnic gorups, and their active participation in the construction and defense of a new life. The fraternal unity of all our country's working peoples — and of Afghanistan — is guaranteed, and their religious beliefs, rites, and traditions are respected.

Important and effective measures have been taken to eliminate illiteracy and improve the public education system and teaching. Despite the undeclared war waged by imperialism and reaction, special attention has been given to the development of national industry, the extension of industrial and agricultural production, and transport, with priority being given to the state sector. We have obtained considerable success in these spheres.

Allow me to add that complete victory over the counterrevolution, armed and instigated by foreign countries, and its total elimination would enable us to fulfill all the people's aspirations.

While striving to remedy the mistakes made in the implementation of the land and water reform program, the gradual implementation of these democratic reforms has improved over the past 5 years. It is continuing consistently with the peasants' participation through peasant councils.

Equal rights for women and men are constantly guaranteed in the various spheres of life. This equality is laid down in our "Basic Principles." Today Afghan women work not only in production but fight alongside men against the armed counterrevolution.

But we never forget for a moment that the implementation of equal rights for women in production and in Afghan society cannot be achieved overnight merely by implementing laws without taking socioeconomic changes into account.

Regarding the literacy program, the method and style of which contained some mistakes during the initial stage, allow me to explain that the complete eradication of illiteracy is the aim of a multifaceted and gradual program in the framework of a complete cultural revolution after the revolution's "New Stage." The triumph of the "New Stage" has ended the practice of forcing women to learn to read and write in mixed classes, and all kinds of other harmful methods. Persuasion is being used to make the people understand the need for literacy.

[Leyrac] It is being said in the West that the Afghan Government does not have authority, and that the state apparatus is on the point of collapse. What are the facts?

[Karmal] The victorious revolution was opposed from the start by regional and worldwide reaction and imperialism. They tried to crush the revolution so as to restore their lost privileges. To this end they launched an undeclared war on our revolution, our country, and our working people, a war that is being stepped up every day. If I mention just the example of the $250 million recently approved by the U.S. Senate for this year to step up the aggression against our state, you will have an idea of the scope of this shameless intervention in the internal affairs of an independent and free country.

Thanks to a really popular policy, the sovereignty, control, and broad support the state now enjoys in society go beyond what previous regimes experienced in the past.

To guarantee the masses' participation and the democratization of social life, the revolutionary state is making consistent efforts for the administration of hamlets, villages, and all inhabited regions to be carried out with the participation of the people themselves, and for local problems to be solved by the inhabitants' direct action.

This is why the DRA Revolutionary Council recently adopted the "Rules for Local Bodies of the State Government and Administration." They represent the advanced form of our people's traditional assemblies. They were drawn up in accordance with our society's general theoretical principles, and specific conditions.

[Leyrac] What kind of relations do you have with Islam?

[Karmal] The new revolutionary order in the country, aimed at changing society in the workers' interests, not only does not conflict with the people's beliefs but takes them extensively into account and respects them.

The fact is that the victory of the April Revolution gave our people real freedom to practice religious rites for the first time, because the policy of previous regimes tended to divide the masses. It prevented the followers of the different religious sects in the country to freely practice their rites and religious duties.

Allow me to make it absolutely clear that the consideration and respect shown for Islam in our country in light of the revolution are without precedent in our history.

[Leyrac] People in the West often say that the Kabul Government is only able to remain in power thanks to the Soviet contingent.

[Karmal] Seeing its so-called "vital interests" threatened in our region, U.S. imperialism, using the reactionaries and counterrevolutionary refugees, has launched a fierce and undeclared war on our revolution and our people from Pakistani territory.

In this war it has relied on the hundreds of thousands of our fellow citizens living abroad when the revolution took place because of the former exploitive regimes' anarchy and indifference toward them, and also because of poverty and unemployment.

Just a few weeks after the triumph of the April Revolution military training centers for gangsters were set up in the neighboring countries — Pakistan and Iran — to export terrorists and assassins to revolutionary Afghanistan.

After the triumph of the "New Stage," the working classes and strata of our society rallied more closely to our Armed Forces.

Although it receives sophisticated weapons from the United States, China, and Arab reaction, the counterrevolution has lost its ability to directly confront our Armed Forces. To intimidate the people, the counterrevolutionaries resort to economic sabotage and blind terrorism. That proves their weakness.

At present the number of training camps is increasing, and there are 120 of them. In these camps the counterrevolutionary gangsters are trained, equipped, and financed, and then sent to our country to carry out subversive and murderous activities. The damage caused by these inhuman operations inflicted on our revolutionary country's young economy totals 35 billion afghanis so far.

Hostility toward our revolution has become Washington's official policy and that of its allies and regional accomplices. The threat of a large-scale invasion which prompted us to appeal for limited Soviet military contingents not only has not disappeared but is instead increasing. As soon as this threat ceases, and our country's independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity receive international guarantees, the question of the departure of the limited Soviet military contingent will be discussed between our two fraternal countries.

This limited Soviet military contingent was asked to come here at the legal request of the DRA's competent authorities, in keeping with the provisions of the 1978 Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Good-Neighborly Relations with the USSR, and on the basis of Article 51 of the UN Charter that provides for repelling foreign aggression.

[Leyrac] How could a negotiated political solution be reached?

[Karmal] The means of reaching such a solution were clearly explained in our proposals of 14 May 1980 and 24 August 1981. The emphasis was placed on agreements between Afghanistan and Pakistan, on the one hand, and Afghanistan and Iran, on the other. These agreements would be based on general clauses acceptable to the two sides: mutual respect for national sovereignty, development of relations based on the principles of good-neighborly relations and nonintervention in each country's internal affairs, and on the commitment to prevent the launching of hostile and armed activities from each country's territory.

PDPA Central Committee May Day Message to Workers

LD012104 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1609 GMT 30 Apr 85

[Message from the PDPA Central Committee on May Day]

[Text] The PDPA Central Committee congratulates all epoch-making workers of revolutionary Afghanistan, the workers and toilers of the friendly and fraternal country of the USSR, other friendly and fraternal socialist countries and all workers of the world, who are heroically struggling to realize the sacred aspirations of the workers of our planet and struggling in the cause of the consolidation of a lasting peace, national independence, democracy and international progress, on the occasion of the 1st of May, the glorious festival of work and the day of international solidarity of world workers.

The PDPA Central Committee on this great occasion and great historical event presents its most sincere congratulations and warm comradely greetings to the trade unions of Afghanistan to the thousands and thousands of militant and sacrificing members who, in the irreversible revolutionary process of our beloved and

ancient country, are heroically standing in the forefront of work, the prosperity of the national economy of the country and in reliable defense of the great and emancipating gains of the glorious April Revolution.

The marking and celebration of the grand workers festival of the 1st of May in our free and revolutionary homeland, has a deep and inseparable link with indefatigable work and struggles and with the proud name of the PDPA, this political vanguard party of the working class and all workers of Afghanistan. For the first time in the history of our country, the workers of Afghanistan are celebrating the 1st of May festival, the international solidarity day of the workers, as a festival of joint revolutionary struggle and the rightful fight of the working class towards reaching humane aspirations under the proud banner of the PDPA. The workers of our revolutionary country are marking the great festival of the 1st of May this year under conditions where exactly 7 years have elapsed since the victory of the national and democratic April Revolution and the establishment of the power of workers in this ancient land.

We also celebrate the festival of international solidarity of the world's workers in our country at a time when just a few days ago the Grand Tribal Assembly of the trusted representatives of the people of Afghanistan successfully concluded its work. The successful convocation of the Grand Tribal Assembly, this great and historic event of the country, once again put the seal of approval on the profound link of the PDPA and the DRA with the people and the unreserved support of the masses of the people with the party and state. The Grand Tribal Assembly of the people of Afghanistan once again asked the workers and peasants of all nationalities, tribes and clans residing in our country, to unite even more closely than before in defense of the interests of the people, homeland and revolution and to give shattering blows to the enemies of the people of Afghanistan, that is U.S. imperialism, Chinese hegemonism, reactionary Pakistan and Iran and all enemies of the Afghan revolution; to close the borders of Afghanistan with Pakistan and Iran at the face of the messengers of death and destruction and heroically defend the independence, territorial integrity and national sovereignty of the homeland.

During the 7th year of the revolution, the alert and working people of our country, despite the conspiracies and sinister, shameful intrigues of the enemies of the revolution and despite the undeclared war by reaction and imperialism, headed by the criminal and seditious U.S. imperialism against the DRA, have pursued with firm steps their path towards the lofty aim of building a new society, a just society devoid of every sort of backwardness and have achieved great successes in this weighty cause.

During these years great and major gains in the area of drafting a new economy, the improvement of the working conditions and life of the workers, the further consolidation of revolutionary power in the country and considerable successes in other spheres have been achieved by our people; the land and water democratic reforms are being constantly and relentlessly implemented; effective activity in eliminating illiteracy have been realized; and new steps have been taken up towards the further absorbtion of the million masses of our country toward participation in state administrative affairs.

The PDPA in the future too, relying on the unbreakable will of the working masses of our country and to obtain all-around potential in the way of further improvement of the new life, will struggle and work to solve the most major economic, social and cultural problems.

The active role of the working class of our country in eternal unity with all working strata of Afghanistan to protect, consolidate, and expand the gains of revolution and self-sacrificing defense of national independence, revolutionary sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country, is eyecatching. The young working class of Afghanistan, during the 7 years of the victory of the revolution, with awareness and vigilance in united coordination and organization in the groups of self-defense, revolution defense groups, revolution guards and other forces of revolutionary struggles, have heroically defended the gains of the April Revolution and, by engaging in collective and competitive work in production, construction and transport establishments, have played an outstanding role toward improving the level of production, improving the quality of work production, the increase of work yield and the strengthening of the country's national economy.

Workers of the country, the PDPA and the DRA, after the victory of the April Revolution and the establishment of revolutionary power in the country, have undertaken practical and great measures toward the prosperity and success of all the workers of our country. As a result of these measures, considerable changes have come about in the politico-economic and social life of all the workers of our country.

The salary of workers and staff has increased 44.4 percent; coupons [consumer goods rationing coupons] have increased 50 percent; social services and social security for the workers have expanded more than ever before; dormatories have been built in establishments, clinics, health centers, nurseries and resting places for workers; and better grounds for the healthy education and training for workers and their children inside and outside the country have been prepared.

In addition to all socially beneficial measures, currently broad and nationwide literacy movements in all workers collectives have been set up with a high revolutionary spirit and thousands and thousands of our workers, organized in the literacy courses, are engaged in learning, and the process is relentlessly pursued throughout the country.

Currently, workers professional schools, workers faculties for continuing advanced education of the workers in the country have been formed. The creation of the workers syndicate education has considerably helped toward the enhancement of the understanding and politico-class vigilance of the country's working class.

For the first time in the history of the country, after the victory of the April Revolution and its new development stage, the working class of the country have found the opportunity to enjoy the secure and reliable conditions of work. The conclusion of collective agreements in the workers collectives has had a positive effect in maintaining better and more secure working conditions. At present in almost all establishments of workers collectives such contracts have been concluded.

The party and state pay serious attention to the rest and holidays of the workers and their families. Better conditions of rest and holidays for the workers and their children are provided inside and outside the country.

Moreover, the draft and compilation of labor law, as a great and valuable gain in the area of all-around maintenance of workers' rights, asking the opinion of all in this regard, is one of the measures which, with the final ratification of this law, could greatly change the lives of our country's workers.

Militant and revolutionary workers of Afghanistan, when we are celebrating the 1st of May at the beginning of the 8th year and are expressing militant solidarity with the world's workers, close your ranks further around the PDPA and, in close ranks with all patriotic and working forces of the country, make firm efforts toward the elimination of the counterrevolutionaries who are doomed to defeat, toward the growth and prosperity of the homeland and towarddeepening, and expanding the values of the April Revolution. Also employ all your talents and initiative in the successful accomplishment of work competitions, the realization of the economic plans of the party and state, the raising of production of work and other social and service activities, and remain at the forefront in the struggle against the enemies of the homeland, people and revolution. Welcome the consolidation of solidarity with all vanguard and progressive forces of the world and in deepening unbreakable friendship with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. May Day, the grand festival of work, is a day of solidarity of international workers. Auspicious be this day to the workers of Afghanistan and all the world.

Gandhi Terms Government Stand on Punjab 'Flexible'

BK020334 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 May 85

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said that the government's stand on Punjab issue is flexible. However, no compromise will be made at the cost of the country's unity and integrity. He was addressing a press conference at Dhanbad yesterday.

About the antireservation agitation in Gujarat, Mr Gandhi said the government is analyzing the situation. He said the center will not hesitate in instituting a judicial inquiry into the Gujarat riots if the need arises.

The prime minister said the government is committed to wipe out black money from the country's economy and will take strong action against profiteers to check price rise. He said the budgetary measures announced recently are the first step in this direction.

Gandhi on Willingness To Settle Punjab Issue

BK020924 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 May 85

[Text] The prime minister has reaffirmed the government's willingness to go to any extent within the limits of unity and integrity of India to settle the Punjab issue. In an intervention during question time in the Rajya Sabha today, Mr Rajiv Gandhi declared that the government is not going to budge on the question of national integrity.

Replying to a question on yesterday's developments among different sections of the Akalis, he cautioned against doing anything in the present flow of situation. He said the Akali Dal must be allowed to consolidate and find a leader. Mr Gandhi pointed out that the traditionally accepted leaders were not present at yesterday's meeting in which two factions of the Akali Dal were reported to have been dissolved. The prime minister said it is important to watch how the leaders with whom the government has been dealing so far react to the development. He asked the members not to create any situation to make it harder for them to react. Mr Gandhi said we must make sure that extremism and terrorism in Punjab end once and for all while finding a solution to the issue.

He clarified that although the ban on the All India Sikh Student Federation has been removed, the criminal cases against some of its members have not been withdrawn.

Earlier, in reply to the main question, the home minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, said the government has not formally heard anything from the Akali Dal so far. With a view to solving the Punjab issue, the government has released a number of Akali leaders, lifted the ban on the All India Sikh Student Federation, and decided to hold an enquiry into the violence in Delhi following Mrs Indira Gandhi's assassination.

The reported merger of the two groups of the Akali Dal figured in the Lok Sabha during zero hour, when Mr Kamal Nath, Congress-I, wanted to know government's reaction to this development. The speaker, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar, asked the members to give a proper notice.

Akali Factions Merge

BK020316 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 May 85

[Text] The two factions of the Akali Dal, led by Sant Harchand Singh Longowal and Mr Jagdev Singh Talwandi, are reported to have merged into a single unit. An announcement claiming this was made in Amritsar by Mr Joginder Singh, father of the late Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, in Amritsar last evening. He said the single unit will now be run by a 9-member ad hoc committee which includes Sant Harchand Singh Longowal; Mr Jagdev Singh Talwandi; the former Punjab chief minister, Mr Prakash Singh Badal; and the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh Temple Management] Committee president, Mr J.S. Tohra. Sant Longowal and Mr Talwandi are reported to have submitted their resignations to Mr Joginder Singh. However, neither Sant Longowal nor Mr Talwandi and Mr Badal were available for comment.

AFP on New Sikh Party

HK020852 Hong Kong AFP in English 0847 GMT 2 May 85

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Text] New Delhi, May 2 (AFP) — Tension mounted in Amritsar today after the father of late Sikh firebrand Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale ousted the leaders of the Sikh political party and named himself party head, sources said.

Joginder Singh, 74-year-old Sikh farmer and father of Mr. Bhindranwale, told journalists in the Sikh holy city yesterday that he had dissolved the two factions of the Akali Dal party led by Harchand Singh Longowal and Jagdev Singh Talwandi. He said he had stipped [as received] the two men of their posts and he was taking over the party's leadership.

He said he had formed a nine-member ad hoc committee, with himself as the convener, to run the party which claims a membership of 2.2 million, Sikh sources in the area reached by telephone said. Mr. Longowal and Mr. Talwandi were on the committee, he said.

The move came as a surprise for the federal government, which had been making moves to appease the autonomy movement in Punjab, and the Sikh leaders, official sources here and Sikh sources said.

In a statement issued in Amritsar, Mr. Joginder Singh said he had to make the move to preserve unity in the Sikh faith. He appealed to all Sikhs to boycott anyone who tried to "outwit the committee or act as an agent of puppet of enemies of the (Sikh) faith."

A Sikh reached by telephone inside the Golden Temple told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that there was "tension and

uncertainty" in Amritsar following the move and said "Sikhs have started arriving here in large numbers."

The ousted Sikh leaders were not available for comment today. Repeated attempts to reach them by telephone proved futile. But one Sikh source close to Mr. Longowal said the leaders did not want to risk an open confrontation now by commenting on the move.

"The move is not only unconstitutional and dictatorial, but smacks of conspiracy. It is clear that the separatists want to gain the upper hand," said the source who asked not to be named.

He said seven of the nine members named in the committee were considered militant. Among them was Harinder Singh, former Indian diplomat to Norway, who resigned his post after the Indian Army assault last June on Golden Temple in Amritsar.

"He is not even an Indian, how can he become a member of the party?" the source said. He said the diplomat had given up Indian citizenship after resigning and had sought political asylum in Norway.

Other important members of the committee are Jagjit Singh Rode, elder brother of Mr. Bhindranwale, and Simramjit Singh Mann, a former police officer now in jail on sedition charges.

"The composition of the committee makes it very clear that the policies of the party under Joginder Singh will be militant," he said.

The unexpected move followed calls by Sikh leaders for urgent steps to unify the Akali Dal.

Mr. Joginder Singh also had claimed that Mr. Longowal had written letter to him resigning from his post.

Sources close to Mr. Longowal said Mr. Longowal had sent him a letter as an individual rather than as party president and asking for support for the unity effort.

No comment was available from Mr. Talwandi's faction.

The majority of the party members belong to Mr. Longowal's camp, but analysts said that Mr. Longowal, dubbed a moderate, had been losing support after the Army assault on the temple.

Mr. Joginder Singh was a village leader and was active in local temple affairs, before his son's fame brought him prominence. He married twice and had five sons and a daughter by his first wife, and two sons, including Mr. Bhindranwale, by his second wife.

Mr. Bhindranwale died at age 38 during the Army assault, launched to drive militants out of hiding in the temple.

More than 650 people died in the action.

Mr. Bhindranwale, who had a reputation as a firebrand, had emerged as the leader of the Sikh autonomy campaign and was dubbed by the local media as a militant and separatist.

Senior Akali Leaders Discuss Punjab Problem

BK010629 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 May 85

[Text] Senior Akali leaders have expressed their view that the Punjab problem can be solved if the center takes bold and liberal steps to create an amicable atmosphere. This was stated after meeting in Chandigarh which included the president of the Akali Dal, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal; president of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh Temples Management] Committee, Mr G.S. Tohra; former Punjab chief minister, Mr Prakash Singh Badal; and the former union ministers, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala; and Mr Balwant Singh.

Talking to newsmen yesterday, Mr Badal said the leaders have decided to meet at regular intervals to review the situation in the state.

The Congress-I general secretary, Mr Srikant Verma, has said that the center has taken several steps in the right direction to solve the Punjab tangle and it is for the Akali leaders to respond favorably. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi, he said it was expected of Mr Longowal to try for reconciliation during his recent visit to Delhi.

The Bharatiya Janata Party says it is not in favor of the opposition taking any initiative at present on the Punjab issue. In a statement in New Delhi, the party president, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, said that the opposition parties do not share a common perception of the Punjab problem and its solution. He complained that neither the government nor the Akalis have taken the opposition into full confidence abount their respective stands.

Gunmen Kill Congress-I Leader in Punjab

BK020302 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 May 85

[Text] The Congress-I president of the Khanna block in Ludhiana District in Punjab, Mr Visham Prakash, was shot dead and two others injured when two unidentified youths shot at them in the party office last night. The injured have been admitted to the hospital in Ludhiana. The condition of one of them is stated to be serious. According to a police spokesman in Chandigarh, the assailants came on foot and escaped on two scooters parked outside the office.

Police Discover Grenade at Chandigarh Temple

HK011508 Hong Kong AFP in English 1505 GMT 1 May 85

[Text] New Delhi, May 1 (AFP) — Police found and removed a powerful hand grenade set to go off at a big Hindu temple in Chandigarh crowded with worshippers, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reported today. PTI said that the explosive, discovered last night in the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana, was planted by suspected Sikh militants.

Police sources said the grenade would have caused heavy casualties and damage at the Sanatan Daram Mandir, the oldest and biggest Hindu shrine in the city, if it had gone off, PTI said.

Many worshippers had gathered at the temple for a religious festival.

Explosives experts were today examining the grenade, which had a battery cell and some wires attached and was concealed in a polyethylene bag, PTI said.

Gandhi Says Westland Helicopters 'Not Suitable'

BK020904 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 May 85

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said that British Westland helicopters are not suitable for India's requirements. He was replying to supplementaries in the Rajya Sabha regarding the reported move of the British authorities to cancel the 65 million pound aid to India if Westland helicopters are not purchased. Mr Gandhi said India has asked the British Government to transfer this aid for the purchase of Sea Harriers required by the Indian Navy. The prime minister made it clear that there are other types of helicopters which are more suitable and technologically better to meet India's requirements. He said no letter of intent for Westland helicopters has been placed so far.

In reply to the main question, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Khurshid Alam Khan, said the British prime minister during her recent visit to India had said her country would not allow its hospitality to be abused by extremist elements. Mrs Thatcher appreciated India's concern at the activities of Anti-Indian elements in Britain.

In reply to another supplementary regarding the extradition of certain individuals from Britain, the prime minister said the matter was discussed with the British prime minister but the question of extradition treaty did not figure during the talks.

Defense Cooperation Pact Signed With Italy

BK011342 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 May 85

[Text] India and Italy have entered into an agreement on cooperation in reaserch and development of defense systems. The agreement was signed by the scientific advisor to the defense minister, Dr V.S. Arunachalam, and Defense Secretary of Italy General G. Piovano in New Delhi today. Under the agreement, the two governments will identify and receive programs on possible common interest and will support arrangements for exchange of information, components, and such systems which are under development or in production in either country.

Parliament To Introduce Drug-Trafficking Legislation

BK301444 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Apr 85

[Text] The government is to introduce a comprehensive legislation in the next session of Parliament for effectively checking drugs trafficking to and from the country. Announcing this in the Rajya Sabha today, the finance minister, Mr V.P. Singh, said according to an international study, India is only a transit point of drug trafficking. All necessary measures are being taken to check this menace. Members from both sides of the house expressed concern on smuggling of hashish and opium. Sharing the concern of the members, the finance minister also said the manufacture and import of mandrey tablets have been banned.

Minister on Oil Exploration Agreement With USSR

BK301438 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Apr 85

[Tesxtll Gas has been struck at two places in the Jaisalmer District of Rajasthan. The reserves are estimated to be 540 million cubic meters. Giving this information in the Lok Sabha, the minister for petroleum, Mr Naval Kishore Sharma, said the exploitation of these two gas fields is yet to be taken up. Three modern rigs are proposed to be deployed to speed up the work.

The minister also informed the house that an agreement was signed with the Soviet Union last month for an intensive and integrated approach to oil exploration. Under the agreement, the Soviet teams will be given specified areas for exploration. The Oil and Natural Gas Commission will be responsible for production of oil.

Situation 'Fast Returning to Normal' in Gujarat

BK011605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 May 85

[Text] The situation in Gujarat is fast returning to normal. The state home minister, Mr Amarsinh Chaudhary, said in Ahmedabad that barring a few minor incidents, the situation remained peaceful today throughout the state. He said because of the improved situation, the curfew will be further relaxed tomorrow from 0500 in the morning to 2200 at night.

Referring to the strike of the state government employees in Gandhinagar, a spokesman said that about 40 percent of the employees reported for duty today. Class 2 and Class 4 employees remained absent today. The spokesman said that efforts are being made to arrive at a compromise with the employees. On the other hand, the employees side said that the strike was a complete success. The employees are on an indefinite strike in support of the demand for judicial inquiry into the alleged attack by the police on the employees last Monday.

The situation in Surat is peaceful. The markets were open and bus services also functioned during the curfew relaxation period.

In Mehsana District, the situation remained peaceful during the curfew relaxation for 3 hours in the morning.

No Inquiry Planned

BK020930 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 May 85

[Text] In Gujarat, the situation remained peaceful throughout the state since last night. Taking this into view, curfew was further relaxed today in Ahmedabad and Surat. No untoward

incident happened in these cities after the relaxation of curfew this morning. The situation in Kadi in Mehsana District was also peaceful when curfew was relaxed for 3 hours for women this morning. Only in Baroda, indefinite curfew continues in the Wadi area. In Gandhinagar, indefinite strike by the employees of state secretariat and allied offices continued for the 2d day today.

The prime minister has said there is no question of changing the Gujarat chief minister or instituting a judicial inquiry into firing incidents in Gujarat. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was clarifying certain points raised by Mr L.K. Advani, Bharatiya Janata Party, in the Rajya Sabha today. He said at Dhanbad, he was asked by newsmen yesterday whether he was going to change the chief minister of Gujarat. He had replied that he was not doing it. Mr Rajiv Gandhi said he was further asked whether a judicial inquiry into the firing incidents in Gujarat will be instituted. Mr Gandhi said he had replied in the negative. He was further asked whether in future such an inquiry will be set up. He replied that anything can happen in the future.

Gujarat Employees on Strike

HK010908 Hong Kong AFP in English 0850 GMT 1 May 85

[Text] New Delhi, May 1 (Afp) — Thousands of government employees in India's Gujarat State went on indefinite strike today protesting against the police break-up of a rally in which civil servants were injured, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

PTI said more than 20 members of the government employees' union were injured when police broke up a demonstration they were holding Monday against a policy favoring low-caste Hindus.

It said the strikers had planned to "gherao" (forcibly detain) the state's Chief Minister Madhavsinh Solanki at a public function today, but 400 policemen specially deployed at the venue had aborted the attempt. There was no report of any confrontation between the strikers and the police.

Upper caste Hindus have been leading a protest across Gujarat for the past two months against the federal government policy granting provileges to lower-caste Hindus in government jobs and education. Seventy people have died in ensuing violence.

PTI said the government employees were opposing quotas allowed for giving lower-caste Hindus government jobs and they objected to promotions made on the basis of caste level. The strikers met with state Governor B.K. Nehru to present their grievances, PTI said.

BANGLADESH

3 Policemen Injured in May Day Bomb Blast

HK011531 Hong Kong AFP in English 1527 GMT 1 May 85

[Text] Dhaka, May 1 (AFP) — At least three policemen were injured when a bomb went off near a police van here as trade unions tried to hold a procession today, eyewitnesses said. Police refrained from commenting on the incident, but eywitnesses said that some people were picked up by police from the scene of the blast, near the Bahadur Shah Park in the crowded old city area.

The incident took place as a group of workers from different trade union organisations were trying to hold a procession for May Day, the sources said.

Processions and political activities are banned in Bangladesh under strict martial law regulations reimposed by the military regime of President Hussain Mohammed Ershad since March 1.

Several bomb blasts have been reported in the past few weeks from different parts of the country. Police said most of the bombs were home-made.

Political analysts said they thought the blasts had been set by dissident groups opposing this month's nationwide subdistrict elections.

2,317 Candidates Remain for Subdistrict Elections

BK011727 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 1 May 85

[All figures as heard]

[Text] Total number of candidates (?left) for upazila [subdistrict] chairmen polls all over the country is now 2,317. In all, 728 candidates have withdrawn their nominations. Out of the 460 upazilas, 2 chairmen candidates of Lakhichari upazila of (Khageshwari) District and [word indistinct] upazila of Comilla District have been elected unopposed. Yesterday was the last date for the withdrawal of nomination papers submitted for the ensuing upazila elections.

Delhi on Elections

BK011359 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 1 May 85

[Text] In Bangladesh, over 2,300 candidates are contesting the upazila subdistrict elections scheduled to be held later this month. There are 460 upazilas that will go to the polls on nonparty basis. Two candidates have already been declared elected unopposed.

The AIR [All India Radio] Dhaka correspondent reports that despite the ban on political activities, the Bangladesh Government has allowed limited electioneering by candidates from today till the 21st of this month. [sentence as heard]

Meanwhile, President Ershad has indicated the possibility of lifting the restrictions on movement of opposition leaders Sheikh Hasina Wajed and Begum Khaleda Zia.

NEPAL

Maldives President Arrives 1 May on State Visit

BK011525 Katmandu External Service in English 1445 GMT 1 May 85

[Excerpts] President of the Republic of Maldives Maumoon Abdul Gayoom and Madame (Rashrina) Maumoon Abdul Gayoom were warmly welcomed when they arrived in Katmandu today on a 4-day state visit to Nepal at the friendly invitation of their majesties the king and queen. Their majesties the king and queen accorded President Gayoom and Madame Gayoom a warm and affectionate welcome at a special welcome dais built at the [words indistinct] of the Tribhuvan International Airport.

President Gayoom's 15-member entourage includes Foreign Minister Fathulla Jameel.

President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom was presented the key of Katmandu city by Katmandu's town panchayat pradhan [chief] pancha, Kamal (Chitrakar), at a special ceremony today at [words indistinct] situated at the heart of the city. Their majesties the king and queen graced the function.

Khamene'i Speech, Celebrations Mark May Day

LD011756 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 1 May 85

[Text] Tehran, May 1, IRNA — In a massive gathering of tens of thousands of workers at the Azadi Stadium on Labor Day here today, President 'Ali Khamene'i highly lauded Iranian workers for their contribution to the economic growth of the Islamic Republic while also contributing to the war effort.

He congratulated the workers for having demonstrated intellectual maturity in coping with the insinuations of the internal and external enemies of the Islamic Revolution who he said are seeking to create disturbances in factories for the purpose of crippling the economic life of the country.

The following are excerpts from the president's speech to the workers at the stadium:

"The Marxist elements who for long argued that in order to promote any upheaval in a society it must be rid from the shackles of religion and religious faith, (have now) witnessed the vanity of their ideas when they experienced the Islamic Revolution in this country.

"In fulfilling their roles since the revolution our workers proved that despite the tendency in some other parts of the world, Iranian workers would not be beguiled by the deceptive slogans of right or left. Rather they exploited their entire resources for the promotion of the Islamic Revolution, both devoted to their work and to holding resistance in the battlefronts...

"Islam is opposed to any class structure. The Holy Koran speaks about the oppressed masses and Islam is concerned about all oppressed masses...the Islamic Republic has so far fulfilled unprecedented services in the interest of the oppressed masses both in the West and East...but those who hoist the banner of socialism and who shout slogans in support for socialism are incapable of rousing or motivating the masses...

"The big powers have been conspiring against the Islamic Republic because they are aware of the potential of the revolution here to motivate and rouse other peoples in other parts of the world. They continue to conspire against the Islamic Republic with the idea of suppressing the call of Islam and muffling it so that others beyond our borders may not hear such calls...

"The Islamic Republic has already started on an onward march to self-sufficiency. We cannot afford to stop in the course of this march...The key to all future advancement lies in our success in making Islam triumph over the world oppression..."

Elsewhere during the ceremony, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Sahadizadeh congratulated the workers on the occasion of Labor Day and said workers throughout the country wish to declare their determination to play an even more significant role in the fight against enemy troops. He voiced renewed allegiance to the leader of the revolution, Imam Khomeyni, on behalf of workers throughout the country.

Meanwhile the workers House of Iran said in a communique on the occasion that Iran's Muslim workers are determined to fight on along with the rest of the Armed Forces against the Iraqi regime. It also called on all workers of the world to condemn the regime in Baghdad for its use of chemical weapons against Iranian soldiers.

Similar ceremonies were held in other parts of the country.

Khamene'i Briefed by Envoys to Austria, France

LD011845 Tehran IRNA in English 1838 GMT 1 May 85

[Text] Tehran, May 1, IRNA — Iranian ambassador to Austria, Mehdi Mostafavi, today met and conferred with president of the Islamic Republic, 'Ali Khamene'i.

At the meeting Mostafavi briefed the president on bilateral political and economic relations between the two countries. The president urged the Iranian ambassador to seek closer relations and expansion of ties between the two countries.

In a separate meeting, today the president also received the Iranian charge d'affaires to France, 'Ali Reza Mo'ayer.

Mo'ayer briefed the president on the recent developments on improving relations between Iran and France. Iran has already asked the French Government to stop its support for Iraq in its imposed war against Iran, to repay its debts to Iran and not to shelter the Iranian terrorists and anti-revolutionaries. Serious action on the part of the French Government on solving these issues would help improve the two countries mutual relations, the president said.

Velayati Sees Off Sierra Leone Delegation

LD011335 Tehran IRNA in English 1304 GMT 1 May 85

[Text] Tehran, May 1, IRNA — The Foreign Minister of Sierra Leone Sheka Kanu and his accompanying delegation left Tehran Wednesday [1 May] after "fruitful" talks with Iranian officials and signing of a trade agreement.

The Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic 'Ali Akbar Velayati saw off the Sierra Leonean delegation at the airport.

Kanu told reporters that his meetings with Iranian officials were useful and fruitful and "I hope they will continue in the interests of both nations".

He said activities that he had seen during his stay guaranteed the progress of the Iranian nation. "I saw things that moved me deeply, such as the old man in Khorramabad who had lost his wife and son and yet spoke to us calmly".

The Sierra Leone delegation Tuesday [30 April] visited the town of Khorramabad, in Lorestan Province, to inspect traces of Iraqi bombardments of civilian areas.

Kanu said he was leaving Tehran with mixed feelings, sad at having witnessed the suffering of the war and happy at having met Iranian people and officials.

Velayati told IRNA that the note of understanding signed between the two nations concerned trade and technical exchanges and Sierra Leone is to export raw materials for Iran's alumunum industry.

He said relations with this Muslim West African country, started three years ago, and is of strategic importance because Sierra Leone is a member of the Islamic Conference and the Nonaligned Movement.

A joint communique is to be issued in Tehran and Free Town.

Communique Issued on Visit

LD011820 Tehran IRNA in English 1755 GMT 1 May 85

[Text] Tehran, May 1, IRNA — Islamic Republic of Iran and Sierra Leone today issued a joint communique at the conclusion of an official 4 day visit here by Sierra Leone's Foreign Minister Dr. Sheka Kanu and his entourage. The communique was issued in both countries capitals and calls for closer bilateral political and economic ties as well as cooperation on international issues.

The delegation from Sierra Leone concluded its visit to Iran today after talks with President Khamene'i, Premier Musavi, Foreign Minister Velayati, minister of mines and metals, Hoseyn Nili-Ahmadabadi, and some high ranking officials of the industries of oil and trade.

During these meetings, both sides expressed their desire to expand political relations and reaffirmed the necessary for strengthening bilateral political ties, closer cooperation in the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement and other international fora.

Excerpts of the communique are as follows:

1. Both sides reiterated the necessity for political cooperation between the two countries and cooperation within the framework of South-South relations.

2. Both sides condemned the bombardment of civilian targets and the use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime, and consider these acts a contravention of humanitarian principles and a flagrant violation of international law.

3. Condemned also by the two sides were the continuation of attacks on commercial (merchant) ships and oil tankers in the Persian Gulf, the declaration of Iranian air space as a war zone, thus putting civilian aircraft at risk, which was deplored as being contrary to international law.

4. Also reiterated was the necessity for further isolating the Zionist regime in all international organizations because of this regime's aggressive policy in Lebanon and the occupied Palestine. They also reaffirmed the necessity for continued sanctions against Israel in the political, economic, and cultural fields, as well as increasing the pressure on her supporters. Both sides also reaffirm their views that Israel must relinquish all Arab and Palestinian lands.

5. The two parties roundly condemn the continued occupation of Afghanistan and demand the unconditional withdrawal of Russian troops.

6. Both sides emphasize the necessity for complete political, economic and cultural boycott of the South African regime by the international community. They also consider the new plan by South Africa, with respect to the formation of a provisional government in Namibia, as a new South African conspiracy hatched for the purpose of continuing the occupation of Namibia and plundering her vast resources. The two sides condemn and demand the immediate implementation of the U.N. Security Council's Resolution 435 as well as following up the conclusions reached on the Namibia problems at the recent Nonaligned meeting in New Delhi. [sentence as received]

7. Both sides attach great importance to the enhancement of relations with Third World countries and consider such relations as the only way to achieve self-reliance and true independence as well as preserving the resources of these countries for the benefit of their people.

Presidential Elections To Be Held by 22 July

LD021038 Tehran IRNA in English 1028 GMT 2 May 85

[Text] Semnan, Semnan Pr., May 2, IRNA — The presidential election in the Islamic Republic is expected to be held early this summer, Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri said during a visit here today.

Nateq-Nuri said he expects the election to be held "Insha-Allah by the end of Tir", the Iranian month ending July 22.

He said this was in accordance to the Constitution and before the end of President 'Ali Khamene'i's four-year term. Khamene'i was elected October 2, 1981.

The upcoming presidential election would be the fourth since the Islamic Revolution more than six years ago. Khamene'i would become the country's first president to complete the four-year term.

Iran's second president, Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, was martyred in a terrorist bomb attack in August 1981, less than two months after his election to replace Abol-Hassan Bani-Sadr, who was voted politically incompetent by the Majlis in June the same year.

Food, Medicine Donated to African Relief Effort

LD020917 Tehran IRNA in English 0905 GMT 2 May 85

[Text] Tehran, May 2, IRNA — About 8,500 tons of foodstuffs, medicine, blankets and vehicles, donated by Iranians for the famine-stricken people of Africa, will be carried by "Iran Islam" cargo ship next Monday, [6 May] beginning of 'Red Crescent Week'. Speaking to reporters at a press conference, head of Iran's Red Crescent Society (RCS) Seifollah Vahid-Dastjerdi, noted that the consignment will be unloaded in Tanzania, Mozambique, Madagascar, and Comoro Islands.

Dastjerdi who will start a visit to Bangladesh soon, told reporters that the objective of the RCS was not merely to render financial and medical help but was also to establish medical centers in African and even Asian countries.

He added that his visit to Bangladesh was aimed at studying possibilities to establish a medical center in that country.

The first consignment of goods donated by Iranians for famine-stricken people of Africa, weighing 5,200 tons, was carried on Feb. 11 this year.

Joint Staff Command Issues Communique No 2,090

LD011732 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 1 May 85

[Text] Tehran, May 1, IRNA — The Islamic combatants silenced the enemy's artillery fire and halted their movement of infantry and motorised units in each of the connective axes and logistic paths in most operational fronts during the past 24 hours.

The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces further said in its military Communique No. 2090 issued today that in the exchange of fire in northwestern fronts, Sardasht witnessed a heavier fire duel. During the said period artillery fire was also traded in south Nahr-Anbar, Hoseyniyeh and Badr operational regions.

The engineering activities of the enemy were checked in these fronts and in the operational region of Arvand River, the gendarmerie forces opened cross fire on the positions and bunkers of the Iraqi troops killing or wounding several of them. More than six light and heavy weaponry positions and observation posts were also destroyed, concluded the Joint Staff Command communique.

SAIRI Confirms Transfer of Saddam's Headquarters

LD011839 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 May 85

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the publicity unit of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI] referred to some well-informed sources and confirmed the news of the transfer of Saddam's headquarters from Baghdad to the holy city of Al-Kazimiyah, published in the last week's issue of the Arabic weekly *AL-JIHAD*.

AL-JIHAD wrote, quoting some reliable sources inside Iraq: Following several missiles hitting Baghdad, Saddam the head of the ruling regime in Baghdad, transferred his headquarters to the holy city of Al-Kazimiyah, under tight security measures. This publication adds: The new headquarters of 'Aflaqite Saddam is inside the military intelligence building, located on the eastern end of Al-Ammeh Bridge and to the rear of Al-Kazimiyah library. Following Saddam's transfer to the above location, special security units of Saddam have been stationed in the nearby palm groves and have begun complete surveillance of the area.

Free Voice of Iran on Brussels Bomb Explosion

GF011658 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 1 May 85

[Text] Coinciding with the arrival of U.S. President Ronald Reagan in Europe, a bomb exploded in Brussels, the Belgian capital. A communist group called the "small strugglers" accepted responsibility for the blast.

Yesterday, the Free Voice of Iran, quoting Western news sources, reported that terrorists linked with the Islamic Republic have engaged in a series of terrorist actions inside Europe connected with Reagan's tour of France and West Germany. In this news item, West Germany, Spain, Italy, Belgium, and France were named as centers for terrorist acts by elements of the Islamic Republic.

Terrorist organizations of the Iranian mullahs have connections with the Red Squad of West Germany, Direct Action in France, Red Brigades of Italy, and several extremist, leftist organizations in Europe.

The bomb explosion in Brussels damaged areas near the railroad station and several people were killed or wounded.

The Islamic Republic regime has so far not announced its views on the sabotage actions of the terrorists at the start of Reagan's trip to Europe.